

In the claims:

1. (previously presented - generic) A machine tool facility equipped with a pallet exchanger for automatically exchanging pallets mounted on a table or on a pallet-mounting plate, comprising: a machine tool having a main spindle supported to rotate about a horizontal axis and for mounting a tool on the front end thereof, and a table or a pallet-mounting plate facing the front surface of the main spindle and for detachably attaching a pallet to a vertical surface of said table or pallet mounting plate, the machine tool being designed to machine a workpiece fixed to said pallet; and wherein said pallet exchanger has a base provided neighboring the table or the pallet-mounting plate and serving as a base plate for the pallet exchanger, a pallet support member provided on the base so as to rotate about a vertical axis thereof in an indexing manner, having at least two vertical pallet-mounting surfaces on each of which a distinct pallet can be removably mounted, and pallet-moving means for moving the pallet, in a vertical state, between the table or the pallet-mounting plate and the pallet support member to exchange the pallets.

2. (previously presented - generic) The machine tool facility as set forth in claim 1, wherein said table or pallet-mounting plate has an extension, and wherein the pallet support member of the pallet exchanger has a pallet moving side and is disposed at a position on said extension of the table or the pallet-mounting plate in a horizontal direction at right angles with the axis of the main spindle, and the pallet-mounting surface of the pallet support member on the pallet moving side is constituted to be in parallel with the pallet-mounting surface of the table or the pallet-mounting plate.

3. (previously presented - withdrawn) The machine tool facility as set forth in claim 1 or 2,

further comprising at least one pallet stocker provided near the pallet exchanger to detachably hold a pallet in a vertical state, and to move the pallet in a vertical state by using the pallet-moving means in the radial direction for a turning circle of the pallet support member so as to exchange the pallet relative to the pallet support member.

4.(previously presented - elected) The machine tool facility as set forth in claim 1, also including a track laid in a horizontal direction at right angles with the pallet-mounting surface of the table or the pallet-mounting plate wherein the base of the pallet exchanger travels on said track in said horizontal direction, said at least one pallet stocker each detachably holding a pallet in the vertical state is disposed near the track and, after the pallet support member and said at least one pallet stocker are aligned with each other, the pallet is moved in the vertical state and is exchanged between the pallet support member and the pallet stocker by the pallet-moving means.

5.(original - elected) The machine tool facility as set forth in claim 4, wherein a plurality of machine tools are arranged on one side or on both sides of the track, and the pallets are moved in the vertical state and are exchanged between a plurality of pallet stockers and the plurality of machine tools by the pallet exchanger traveling on the track.

6.(previously presented - elected) The machine tool facility as set forth in claim 4, wherein the pallet exchanger can be mounted on either a fixed-type base with which the pallet support member and the pallet moving means are used by being fixed onto the floor, or on a traveling-type base and the pallet support member and the pallet-moving means are used while traveling on the track.